Mr. John H. Wright, Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
2/18/89

Dear Mr. Wright,

I am particularly pleased to get the copy of the Sheffield Edwards 14 May 1962 memorandum to Attorney General Robert Kennedy because it is a significant addition to the public record in the matter the identification of which is carefully masked in the memo, one of the CIA's attempts to get Castro assassinated.

I suppose that, given the CIA's attitude and record in such matters rather than just writing you a letter in which I intend to be helpful I'd best ask you to regard this as my appeal from the unjustified and unjustifiable withholdings.

First, I explain that I consider that FOIA makes me and any other requester surrogate for the people. I make all such records freely available to anyone who wants access and copies. In the recent past there was considerable interest in the hidden subject matter of the memo and, as has been my practise since impaired health limited what I am able to do, I permitted the media to search my files for themselves and to make copies on my copier. They have also refiled what they removed for copying, and because of this, before further explanation, I ask if you will be good enough to replace a related memo that was misfield. It is the memorandum Mr. Edwards wrote after he briefed Mr. Kennedy. The CIA disclosed this to me some years ago, as perhaps your own copies of what was disclosed will reveal to you.

All of my records will become a free public archive when I am not able to make explanations to those who will use them in the future.

I therefore request that either Mr. Carle of someone less displosed to act as happy with his withholdings as a pig in a garbage heap review these withholdings not with a yen to just withhold but, in accord with the intent of the Act, with the purpose of disclosing all that can be disclosed without reasonable expectation of harm to the government.

For example, why Giancana wanted that bugging. It has been officially disclosed and it has been the subject of considerable public discussion in all elements of the media.

He suspected that Phyllis McGuire, of the McGuire sisters, then prominent entertainers, was sleeping with Dan Martin of Rowan and Martin, rather than just with him.

Whether or not (b)(6) was the appropriate exemption to claim rather than (7)(C), because of the official disclosures no claim is justified.

Now, I ask if Mr. Carle is so ignorant of what has been disclosed, how can you possibly assign him to review disclosures and claims to exemption?

If it is not ignorance how can the CIA possibly defend the withholdings? Is it then not mere harassment and, were this to be litigated, an imposition on the courts?

Can it be that the CIA does not even review what it has disclosed on such subjects? Obviously, when I know what was withheld, I am not raising this matter with you

for any personal reason or gain. Rather, although the CIA's record does not reflect any concern about such things, I suggest that you people make yourselves look like idiots when you engage in such totally unjustified withholdings, and you have, over the years. If anyone were to collect some of these things and present them to a court, the CIA would look both ridiculous and dishonest as well as incompetent. Were this to be done in litigation to which there is much attention, as in the current North case, the consequences might be quite serious.

For your information, the FBI has disclosed its files on the Balletti case and they indicate that Mr. Edwards was not entirely accurate in his account to the Attorney general. He also was considerably less informative than he could have been and one would ordinarily believe he would want to be.

There have to be more CIA records on this matter, I did request them years ago, and I hope that the CIA will now see fit to make those disclosures of the rest of the related information that can be properly made. If you do not believe that I made requests including this information years ago, then please treat this as a new request.

Recently Phyllis McGuire was on a TV talk show. When she was asked about this matter she said that instead of answering it then she would have a full account in a book she was writing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg